



Key Stage One Autumn term 1 Year 1 and 2



Our topic is Australia

Welcome back to a new school year and a new term! We are very excited about our topic this half term and are looking forward to finding all about the country of Australia. We began our topic with a day of activities revolving around some of the aspects of Australian life. Flags and cork hats were made, along with salt dough boomerangs and sand sculptured models of Uluru.

During this half term we will be finding out about lots of different animals that are native to Australia, discovering their habitats and comparing them to creatures that live in our school grounds. We will be exploring the famous landmarks of the country and working as part of a group to create our own Great Barrier Reef in our classrooms! We will go back in time to discover how the first explorers sailed to Australia.

As part of our RE curriculum we will be reading and watching some Dreamtime stories and using puppets to tell the stories ourselves. In our creative sessions we will be making our own paintings in the style of Aboriginal art, and creating string prints of animals too! We will also be sculptors; making clay pots, and painting on pebbles brought from home. We will also create our own Aboriginal music, and have a go at making and playing didgeridoos! In dance we will choreograph dances based on those of the Aborigine people.

We have begun our phonics and numeracy groupings and the children will all be receiving their regular weekly spelling investigations, numeracy homework and projects to be completed at home as outlined in our Welcome booklet. Please support your child with these pieces of work and, should you have any questions or queries about them, please don't hesitate to come and ask or write a comment on the homework as it is handed in.

Reading continues to be an important part of our teaching and learning, giving children independent access to our exciting and inspiring curriculum. We thank you in advance for your support with this, and give the children a daily opportunity to change their books if they have been heard and signed off at home.

As many of you will have purchased new uniform and PE kit for this new term, please can we remind you of the importance of naming every item so that it can be returned to the correct owners! Thank you.

We hope that the children all enjoy our topic this half term, and if you have any comments about it, or feel that you could share your expertise in any way, please get in touch with your child's teacher. Thank you for your support, Key Stage One team.



Literacy

- * Order the alphabet using Australian animals
- * Read and write stories from Australia, for example, Diary of a Wombat by Jackie French, Sun Mother Wakes the World.

Knowledge and Understanding/Geography, History, Science, ICT

- * Find out about Australian animals, their skin coverings and their habitats.
- * Look at the explorers that discovered the land of Australia.
- * Investigate the major landmarks.
- * Compare Melbourne to Melbourne.
- * Create picture using the Paint program.

Creative/ Art, Music

- * String printing
- * Clay thumb pots
- * Aboriginal style paintings
- * Pebble paintings
- * Didgeridoo playing
- * Create music from the Outback

PE

- * Create Aborigine dances
- * Outdoor sessions - throwing, catching and striking.

PE kit

Indoor kit - burgundy t shirt and black shorts

Outdoor kit - jogging bottoms, jumper, t-shirt and trainers or plimsolls.

PSHCE

- * Appreciate and celebrate the differences and similarities between ourselves and others
- * understanding the idea of belonging